

THE CALLING CARD - April 15, 2021



The Calling Card

The monthly e-newsletter of the Society for Women and the Civil War

<http://www.swcw.org>

The Conference on Women and the Civil War

A LIVE ZOOM EVENT!

Resilient Women of the Civil War

July 24 – 25, 2021



Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

Presentation Schedule:

Saturday, July 24, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

- **Jonathan A. Noyalas** will speak about Rebecca McPherson Wright, the Union spy who was critical to the success of Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.
- **Sarah Bierle** will give us a civilian-focused tour of New Market Battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley.

Sunday, July 25, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

- **Megan Hildebrand** reviews the relationships between Roman Catholic nuns serving as nurses and their Protestant soldier patients.
- **Steve Magnusen** discusses the Cutler, Dawes, and Gates women of Marietta, Ohio.

Registration fee: \$25. Zoom log-in information plus an electronic "conference notebook" will be emailed to participants in advance of the event.

More information: [2021 Virtual Conference Details - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](#)

Registration: [SWCW 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM - Society for Women and the Civil War](#)

The Spring Issue of *At Home and In the Field*,
the quarterly e-journal of the

Society for Women and the Civil War,
will publish at the end of April.
The theme for this issue is "**Women in Industry.**"

At Home and In the Field

is a **Members-Only** publication.

To join the Society, visit our website:

[Join the Society - Society for Women and the Civil War
\(swcw.org\)](http://www.swcw.org)

Membership year runs from January - December.

The Society for Women and the Civil War is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War, and those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past.

News of Note

In the Swan's Shadow.

Readers of *The Calling Card* may be interested in this visual reference resource focused on women and children through the imagery, media, material culture and memory of the American Civil War. *In the Swan's Shadow* can be found on Blogspot at [In the Swan's Shadow \(thebonswan.blogspot.com\)](http://thebonswan.blogspot.com); on

Pinterest at [\(113\) Pinterest](#); and on Facebook at [Civil War Women/In the Swan's Shadow | Facebook](#).



New Women's History Podcast.

SWCW North West Regent **Lin Russell** has alerted us to a wonderful

podcast – ***Your Most Obedient & Humble Servant***. This biweekly history podcast showcases the 18th and early 19th century women’s letters that don’t make it into the history books. These are the kinds of letters that may not directly address a major historical event, but still tell us about the lives and personalities of the women who wrote them. There are so many insights to be gained by hearing these letters, and the history and context of the authors, recipients, and people mentioned in the letters; and they are genuinely entertaining. Check out their website (<https://humservt.com/>) to learn more. *Your Most Obedient & Humble Servant* is available anywhere you listen to podcasts.

Fridays at the Front.

Beginning in June, the **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation** will offer monthly, free Friday morning tours of battlefields and historic sites in the region. For more information, and to register, go to [Fridays at the Front Battlefield Tours – Shenandoah at War](#).

Research Resource:

Civil War Union Widows Pensions

During and after the Civil War, the widows and minor dependents of deceased Union soldiers were eligible for a monthly Federal pension. The pension application case files of Union widows are in the custody of The National Archives. These case files can provide a wealth of genealogical and social information. About 20% of the Approved Widows Case Files have been digitized in full and are available online.

For researchers who subscribe, the digitized case files can be accessed at Fold3.com -- [Civil War "Widows' Pensions" - Fold3](#)

For free access to the digitized case files, visit The National Archives Catalog -- [Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of the Army and Navy Who Served Mainly in the Civil War and the War With Spain \(archives.gov\)](#)

Copies of case files not yet available online can be ordered for a fee by contacting The National Archives: [Requesting Copies of Older Military Service Records | National Archives](#)

Act of June 27, 1906
(1-231)
No. 415288

Harrist Davis
Widow of
Charles Davis
Rank *Private*
Company *D*
Regiment *P. M. S. C. Vol. Inf.*

Rate per Month, \$ *1.00*
Commencing *July 24, 1890*
Ending _____

Buffalo Agency.
Issued *Oct 14* 1895
Mailed *11 23* 1895
Fee, \$ *1.00*

Image from the widow's pension application file of Harriet Tubman, widow of Nelson Davis, USCT.

Society Notices

SWCW member **Lisa Samia** will be live on Zoom, **April 21, 2021**, speaking about *The Nameless and Faceless Women of the Civil War*, as part of an online lecture series presented for free by the **CWRT Congress**. Register at [Speaker Series | CWRT Congress](#).

Samia has also been selected as Artist in Residence at **Manassas National Battlefield Park** for the Fall of 2021.

DONOR LIST

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their generous contributions:

Jeanne Christie
George Foxworth
Ellen Higgins
Lin Russell
Gary Ryan

Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund, Scholarship Fund, or the Bonnie Mangan Memorial Fund should visit our website at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](#). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

The annual changing of the password for our Members-Only website page has taken place, and our current members have been notified of the new password. If you are a 2021 member and did not receive the email notification, please contact us at swcw1865@gmail.com.

Suggested Reading

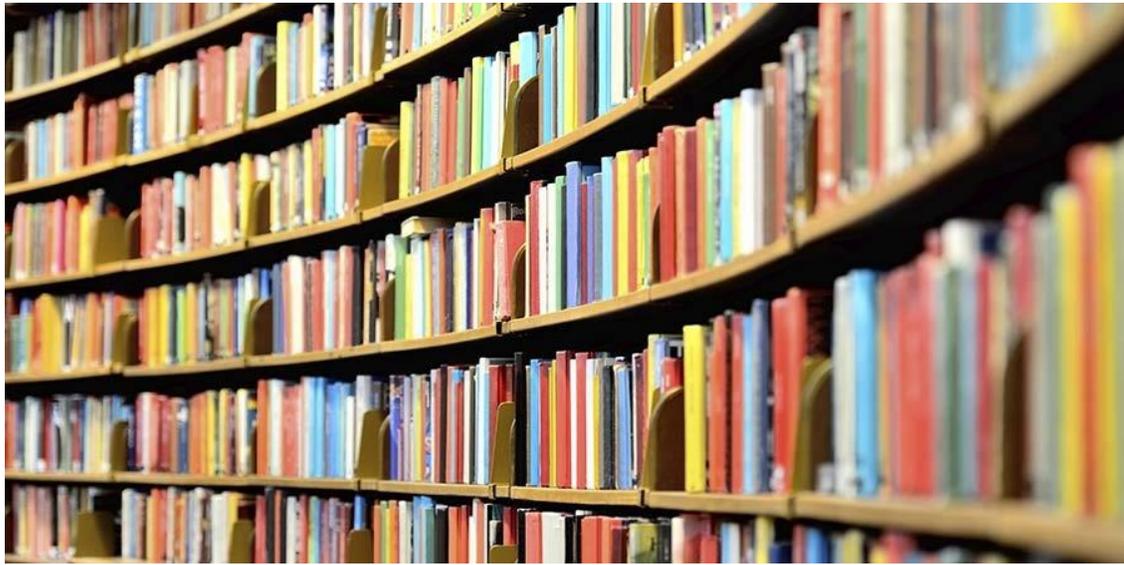
What are YOUR favorite books about women in the Civil War?
Let us know!

In a future issue of *The Calling Card*, we will feature a READERS CHOICE suggested reading list.

Please send your list of favorite books (title and author)
to swcw1865@gmail.com.

Please also put *Book List* in the subject field.

Our deadline for submissions is **May 10**.



**National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War
(NRWSCW):**

Woman of the Month

Anna Ella Carroll

Author, Military Strategist and Political Influencer, USA



Born August 29, 1815, at Kingston Plantation, Eastern Shore of Maryland

Died February 19, 1894 in Washington, DC

One of the most gifted, yet puzzling, individuals of nineteenth century America, Anna Ella Carroll was the eldest of eight children of Thomas King Carroll and Julianna Stevenson Carroll. She was born into one of America's most prominent families, counting several Founding Fathers amongst her ancestors. The Carrolls were the leading Roman Catholic family in the United States during the eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century, yet her father's immediate branch was Episcopalian and anti-Catholic. Her father, an attorney, was the owner of a 2000-acre tobacco plantation. He also served as a judge, as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and as the Governor of Maryland. Her mother was the daughter of a Baltimore physician.

Anna was educated at home by her father, who was an early leader in legislation for provision of free education for all children. He provided her with a classical education and is believed to have also trained her in the law. As his assistant, she became involved in legal activities and politics at an early age.

As a young woman, Anna operated a girl's school at the family plantation. But national politics would become her life's work. She became active in the development of the Whig

political party, and corresponded with party leaders on subjects including the growth of the party and policy development. According to one of her biographers, she could "scheme, connive, and maneuver as well as any man."

During the presidential elections prior to the Civil War, she was a vigorous campaigner, writing newspaper articles and pamphlets supporting her preferred candidates. With ease and speed, her political efforts gained her the confidence and support of Presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore. In 1849, her political campaigning led to the appointment of her father (who had experienced financial reverses) as the Naval Officer of the Port of Baltimore, the port's chief customs officer. Anna supported national political campaigning in 1856 with *The Great American Battle*, her first book. She would continue to be a popular writer with the American public.

Anna was an ardent abolitionist, supporting the anti-slavery cause with her writings. She also had a keen interest in constitutional law, and opposed emancipation by the federal government based on her interpretation of the constitutionally-imposed limitations upon the powers of the government. She celebrated the election of Lincoln to the presidency by freeing the people she personally owned. Given her written opposition to slavery, her choice to wait until 1860 is perplexing.

Anna became a dedicated crusader for the preservation of the Union, and she understood that, in order to accomplish this goal, she needed to rally support for the new president. She was also deeply concerned with keeping her home state in the Union. Through newspaper articles and letter-writing campaigns, she helped influence Maryland politics in support of Lincoln and in opposition to secession. With the endorsement of the US government, she wrote a series of pamphlets which provided constitutionally-based arguments for preservation of the Union and justification for application of presidential war powers. This work culminated in her 1861 book *The War Powers of The General Government*. The arguments put forward in her pamphlets and book were often cited in speeches by senior government officials.

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, she had traveled extensively throughout the Midwest and the South. During her journeys, she observed the key roles of rail and water transport routes in national security, including the provision of links between natural resources and manufacturing sites. A particularly fateful trip in 1861 allowed her to make a reconnaissance of the Upper Mississippi Valley on behalf of her contacts in the US War

Department. Armed with her own observations and the results of discussions with river pilots, she developed a detailed plan for a federal military thrust into the South following the route of the Tennessee River. As submitted to the War Department, this plan is credited by a number of historians with influencing Grant's campaign which captured Vicksburg, along with key Confederate fortifications, river-transport junctions, and railroads. Yet there are also scholarly critics who believe that Anna received too much credit for her contribution to the military campaign planning. At the time, her participation was kept a secret, and her initial post-war crediting of a US Army officer for the contribution also undercut her later arguments for recognition.

In the immediate post-war years, Anna Ella Carroll largely devoted herself to political campaigning in Maryland. She also traveled to Texas to report on the development of a new state constitution. However, by 1870, her attention was primarily focused on obtaining compensation from the federal government for her services to the US war effort. She remained frustrated with the insufficient degree of official recognition or monetary compensation. She continued to write, and her case eventually drew the attention of the women's suffrage movement. Its leadership brought attention to her service and lack of remuneration, using it as an example of an injustice which it claimed would not have happened if women were allowed to vote. Late in her life, as the result of a special bill which recognized the "important military service rendered by her during the late Civil War," the US Congress granted her a small pension of \$50.00 a month.

When Anna died, the epigraph carved upon her grave marker commended her as "A woman rarely gifted; an able and accomplished writer."

F. B. Carpenter's 1864 painting of Lincoln and his cabinet, which hangs in the Senate wing of the US Capitol Building, alludes to Anna Ella Carroll's unrecognized role in the Lincoln cabinet, by leaving a chair empty at the table. The chair is draped by the red shawl of a woman. On the table, in front of the chair, are shown maps and documents of the types with which she worked. In 2011, portrait artist Laura Era was commissioned by a group of Marylanders to paint a new version of the work, with Anna Ella Carroll depicted in that chair, wearing the red shawl. Considering Carroll's opposition to the Constitutional justification of the Emancipation Proclamation – the reading of which serves as the subject

of the painting - the revised version adds to the complexity of her story.



The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln, also known as The Empty Chair.

Francis Bicknell Carpenter, 1864



The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln.

Laura Era, 2011

Sources available upon request.

Partner Organizations Spotlight



The Company of Military Historians was founded in 1949 as an educational, scientific, and literary institution devoted to the study and dissemination of “information on the uniforms, equipment, history, and traditions of members of the Armed Forces of the United States worldwide and other nations serving in the Western Hemisphere.” The Company of Military Historians is made up of professional and amateur historians, curators, and collectors who wish to preserve the material military culture of the Americas from pre-Columbian through the War on Terror. The Company publishes the *Military Historian and Collector* quarterly as well as *Military Uniforms in America*, an annual set of historical uniform plates.

The 2020/21 *Annual Meeting of the Company of Military Historians* will be held May 27-30, 2021 at the Crowne Plaza, Princeton, NJ. The theme for the meeting is "Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution," even though the nine talks, five field trips, and multiple educational exhibits cover all periods of American military history. Full information about the Annual Meeting is available at

<https://military-historians.org/2020/04/19/information-about-the-2020-annual-meeting/>

Two presentations may be of special interest to the SWCW audience:

- “Willie, Johnny, and the Vacant Chair: Depictions of the Common Soldier in the Parlor Music of Civil War America” by Emily Lapisardi. This presentation will trace the evolution of the parlor song’s depiction of the lives, deaths, and wartime experiences of common soldiers through a summary of the repertoire and analysis of the song’s roles both on the homefront and in the military camp.
- "Civil War to Desert Storm: The Adventures of COL Norman Schaefer, MD (1924-2020)." This exhibit will feature the personal account of Col. Norman Schaefer's visit to the 75th anniversary events at Gettysburg in 1938 which he wrote following his visit to Gettysburg for the 150th anniversary.

Full information about the Annual Meeting is available at <https://military-historians.org/2020/04/19/information-about-the-2020-annual-meeting/>. For more information about The Company of Military Historians, visit their website at www.military-historians.org/.

Research Requests

Ida Robinson.

Seeking information about Ida Robinson, who may have been a spy for the Confederacy.

Please reply to "NRWSCW" at swcw1865@gmail.com.

Red Ink.

Seeking information regarding the use of red ink in Civil War-era military records — is there any significance to its use?

Please reply to "Editor" at swcw1865@gmail.com.



U.S. Sanitary Commission.

Did the USSC regularly request, or ever receive, reimbursement from the federal government for services rendered in U.S. hospitals? The requester has recently viewed a letter indicating that such a request was made in relation to Camp Letterman Hospital.

Please reply to J. White at swcw1865@gmail.com.

Women in the Civil War.

A researcher asks if anyone has a copy of Women in the Civil War, 2 volumes, edited by Lisa Tendrich Frank, as he needs to retrieve some specific information from those works.

Please reply to Jeff Prushankin at prushankin@aol.com.

***The Calling Card* accepts submissions.**

We are eager to share the achievements of our members, and to advertise the activities of the Civil War and Women's History communities. We also welcome individual research requests, and notifications about educational and archival resources.

Please send your submissions to swcw1865@gmail.com and please write "Calling Card" in the subject field. (Submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity.)

The Calling Card is distributed on the 15th of each month, and our deadline for same-month submissions is the 10th.

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